GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3860
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING INFRASTRUCTURE
Barman Shri Hiten

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has notified certain States/Union Territories (UTs) for grant of assistance for investment subsidy on infrastructure projects under the Strengthening/Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Grading and Standardisation Scheme;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the criteria for identifying beneficiary States/UTs;

(c) whether West Bengal would also be considered for grant of assistance under the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): It is a Central Sector Reform-linked Scheme, approved for implementation in those States/Union Territories (UTs) only, which allow direct marketing & contract farming and permit setting up of agricultural produce markets in private/cooperative sector by amending their Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation (APMR) Acts. Those States which have no APMR Act are also eligible under the Scheme. On this basis, so far 25 States/ UTs have been notified as eligible for implementation of the scheme. Under this Scheme, a credit-linked, back-ended subsidy is provided for developing/ strengthening marketing infrastructure on the capital cost of the projects taken up by the individuals,farmers,farmers'groups,companies,cooperatives,NGOs, State Agencies etc. @ 25% of the approved capital cost, subject to an upper ceiling of Rs.50.00 lakh.For Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) beneficiaries and North- Eastern States,hilly and tribal areas, the rate of subsidy is 33.33% subject to an upper ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakh.The State Agencies such as State Agricultural Produce Marketing Boards and APMCs have also been allowed assistance under the scheme with no upper limit of subsidy on an investment from their own funds without borrowing from the financial institutions for developing /strengthening of marketing infrastructure.

(c) to (e): The Government of West Bengal is yet to notify the required amendments in their APMR Act and the State can be notified as eligible under the Scheme on notification of such amendments.